

Written Testimony HB 5372

My name is Barbara Connery and I live in Woodbury, Connecticut. I am presently an instructional coach for Regional School District 6, serving the Morris, Goshen, and Warren communities.

I have been fortunate enough to have been trained in a structural literacy approach and have seen significant progress with my intervention students. One student progressed from the 2nd percentile in growth as measured by the STAR assessment to the 99th percentile in growth in the course of two years.

I also have shared this approach with several teachers in the state of Connecticut through workshops, and find teachers grateful for this information including phonemic awareness, decoding, syllabication, and morphology.

I fully support HB 5372, An Act Concerning Dyslexia Instruction Offered in Teacher Preparation Programs. Teachers with the knowledge and tools to meet the needs of children with dyslexia could make a difference by meeting student needs. In addition, teachers who receive training at college or university level would ultimately save districts money, teachers time, and students from falling behind.

This bill could ensure minimum standards for knowledge and practice within our institutions of higher education on how teachers are prepared in structured literacy and how this will benefit both teachers and students. This legislation is essential to meet the needs of students with dyslexia while strengthening the teaching practices for all students.

Thank you.

Barbara Connery

Instructional Coach

Regional School District 6